

Vision21 Implementation Committee Minutes
September 18, 2003
(Approved October 2, 2003)

Members Present: Jenny Fallon, Joe Greene, Victoria Hasse, Matt Hausmann, Meg O'Brien, Jennifer Page, Paul Solomon, Barry Winston
Members Absent: Tim Higgins, Bill Hofmann, Sara Oaklander

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 by the Chair, Jennifer Page.
2. **Review of Minutes.** The minutes of Sept. 4, 2003 were approved with corrections.
3. **Election of Officers.** The Committee unanimously re-elected the following officers: Jennifer Page, Chair; Joe Greene, Vice Chair.
4. **Reports/Updates.**
 - 4.1. **Analysis of Permitting Process.** Victoria Hasse attended the first of two meetings in which Tim Higgins presented to the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) his proposals for updating the permitting process. ZBA expressed its desire that it had been included in the process earlier, the Board liked many of the changes to the process and also made suggestions of additional changes to Tim Higgins. Jennifer reported that Tim felt the second meeting with the ZBA also went well; there was an open, positive exchange. There will be additional meetings between Tim Higgins and the ZBA. Paul Solomon will follow up with Tim to better understand the process for getting the ZBA's approval.
 - 4.2. **Newcomers' Network.** There will be an October meeting as a follow up to the event in August. The objective will be to evaluate the August event and determine actions (meetings and agenda) for moving forward.
 - 4.3. **Newcomers' Booklet.** A meeting was held last Monday to discuss the addendum, with Barry, Joe, Victoria, and Jennifer. It was noted that there are a number of booklets left, so the plan is to create an addendum with updated phone numbers, rather than reprint the entire booklet. Victoria Hasse and Barry Winston discussed how the addendum will work with the booklet. Jennifer Page will draft some introductory verbiage for the booklet. Barry and Victoria will finalize and oversee printing.
 - 4.4. **BEDPG.** A number of items were discussed. Jennifer read e-mail comments from Sara Oaklander by way of update.
 - 4.4.1. Surveys have gone out. Returns have been light. There will be follow up to the "randomly selected" group of recipients to ensure a higher return.
 - 4.4.2. Sara needs assistance in getting the survey data entered. Members suggested she contact Alice Melnikov, for volunteers from the high school; and Janet Geggis.
 - 4.4.3. Sara is tracking the Planning Board's Trapelo Road study. The Board is planning a series of workshops for the public. Jennifer Page will forward that schedule to the Committee.
 - 4.5. **PIC.** Meg reported that October 16 has been set as the date for a public forum. The Committee discussed ideas to ensure good attendance and agreed to assist in these

efforts. PIC will consider inviting Town Meeting Members via e-mail. It was also suggested that the Newcomers Committee members be invited along with all of the people who attended the Newcomers Forum.

4.6. School Committee. Jenny Fallon updated the Committee on her meeting with the School Committee. One of the items of discussion was how could VIC work with the School Committee. Ralph Jones suggested that VIC could work on how to fund the schools as this is something that the Accreditation Committee raised as a future issue for the schools. The following are the major takeaways:

4.6.1. Paul Solomon reminded the Committee that there is a group that is looking at how the schools should be funded in the future.

4.6.2. Joe Greene suggested that VIC undertake an effort to help educate the various constituencies on issues around school funding including the importance of the schools, how funding works now, how funding works in other communities, etc. The Committee agreed that this may be a good fit for VIC. Barry Winston reminded the Committee to ensure that it present a balanced view on the issues.

5. The Environment. A number of items were discussed.

5.1. The Committee reviewed Jenny Fallon's summary which had been distributed by e-mail. All agreed that it was an excellent piece of work; some slight changes were suggested. Members hoped we can hear from a few other groups who were not contacted during the summer (Fire Chief; Planning Board; Stormwater Com.)

5.2. The Committee discussed "what do we do with these data?"

5.2.1. Joe Greene suggested a split between government and non-government. He also suggested that we educate the public on what others are doing. Jenny suggested this may be a good route since the true environmental savings will come from the citizenry.

5.2.2. The Committee reviewed brochures created by the City of Cambridge and suggested that additional information be gathered from other towns.

5.2.3. Meg O'Brien suggested that the VIC think about writing a recurring column for the Belmont Citizen Herald to inform the public about environmental matters.

5.2.4. The Committee discussed the idea of having a public forum that would be set up more like a trade show and conference.

5.2.5. In the end, it was agreed that Jenny Fallon and Jennifer Page would create a plan and present it to the Committee.

6. The next meeting is scheduled for October 2.

7. The meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Hausmann, Secretary Pro Tem